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MESSAGE FORM

SECRET

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ORIG: GACarver, Jr.
UNIT: DCI/SAVA
25X1 EXT:
DATE: 12May71

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
BY 35 PER # INDEX NO INDEX RETURN TO BRANCH FILE RID
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CONF: C/SAVA INFO FILE, VR, ODP, ADDP, CS/DO, C/CA3, [redacted] 25X1

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SECRET 12 | 25Z MAY 71

CITE DIRECTOR [redacted]

GAC
DH
JW CB
LAW

TO [redacted]
25X1

(1)

1. NY TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST 12 MAY EDITIONS BOTH RUN ON THEIR FRONT PAGES AP STORY ON DAMAGE TO ANGKOR WAT BY FANK SHELLING OF THREE MONTHS AGO. TIMES HEADLINE RUNS QUOTE ANGKOR WAT REPORTED DAMAGED BY CAMBODIAN SHELLS UNQUOTE, POST'S SAYS SIMPLY QUOTE ANGKOR WAT IS DAMAGED BY SHELLING UNQUOTE. BOTH PAPERS START STORY WITH THREE COLUMN CUT IN MIDDLE OF LOWER PORTION OF FRONT PAGE. BOTH PICTURE CAPTIONS PLACE BLAME FOR DAMAGE ON CAMBODIAN ARMY. BOTH STORIES BASED ON SAME AP RELEASE.

2. PASSING BUT EXPLICIT MENTION IS MADE IN POST VERSION THAT QUOTE THE HUGE TEMPLE WAS OCCUPIED BY VIETCONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS LAST JUNE AFTER THE WAR SPREAD ACROSS CAMBODIA UNQUOTE. TIMES MUTES THIS THOUGHT AND SUBMERGES IT IN SENTENCE THAT READS QUOTE REPORTS OF THE SHELLING CAME FROM

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PAGE TWO

TRAVELLERS RETURNING FROM SIEM REAP, THE TOWN NEAREST ANGKOR, WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES UNQUOTE.

WE SENDING FULL CLIPS BOTH ARTICLES VIA [redacted] 25X1

3. HORSE UNFORTUNATELY OUT OF BARN AND RKG NOW IN AWKWARD POSITION OF COPING WITH STORY WHOSE INITIAL PLAY PUTS IT IN THE WRONG. DO NOT BELIEVE RKG SHOULD TRY TO EXCUSE OR JUSTIFY ACT OF SHELLING, WHICH PRESUMABLY DID IN FACT OCCUR. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, RKG HAS LONG MISSED PROPAGANDA BET BY NOT VIGOROUSLY PUBLICIZING DETAILS OF VC/NVA SEIZURE OF ANGKOR RUINS AND USE/EXPLOITATION THEREOF AS MILITARY BASE. RKG COMPLAINTS REGARDING SUCH MILITARY EXPLOITATION OF PRICELESS, IRREPLACEABLE MONUMENT OF CIVILIZATION COULD STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORD WORLD-WIDE AND BE AWKWARD FOR HANOI AND ITS SUPPORTERS TO HANDLE. EVEN THOUGH THEY NOW STARTING ONE DOWN, BELIEVE RKG CAN STILL GAIN BENEFIT FROM WORKING THIS THEME PROVIDED, AS NOTED ABOVE, IT NOT PLAYED AS JUSTIFICATION FOR FANK SHELLING.

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TO:

PAGE THREE

4. REQUEST YOU CABLE FOR OUR USE AND POSSIBLE WORLD-WIDE EXPLOITATION WHATEVER DETAILS AVAILABLE TO YOU ON DATES COMMUNIST FORCES MOVED INTO ANGKOR RUINS, UNITS INVOLVED, AND TYPES OF MILITARY, LOGISTIC BASE OR SANCTUARY USE THEY HAVE MADE OF TEMPLE GROUNDS.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1

25X1

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George A. Carver, Jr.
SAVA
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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